

# WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

## FOR NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN COUNTIES

### June 2004



#### Most unemployment rates lower than last May; all lower than in April

In May, **Adams County's** unemployment rate was farther above its typical level than it had been in the previous year, in contrast to winter months where the rate had been below typical levels. Leisure & hospitality employment estimates are above year-ago levels for the first time in over twelve months. The construction sector continues to follow last year's trends, albeit at somewhat higher employment levels.

From 0.4 percent above typical levels to roughly 1.0 percent below typical levels, the unemployment rate in **Forest County** has

shown marked (if not steady) improvement between last May and this May. Leisure & hospitality declines were milder this winter than last and increases are slower this spring than last. Construction was above year-ago levels until December and has roughly matched year-ago levels since then.

The **Langlade County** unemployment rate is further above typical than it has been since September. Construction and leisure & hospitality continue to follow last year's seasonal trends at slightly higher levels.

In **Lincoln County**, the unemployment rate was closer to its typical level than it has been in the last year. Leisure & hospitality job growth started earlier and looks stronger than last spring. Gains in manufacturing and in transportation, warehousing & utilities are welcome, but neither sector has risen to year-ago levels or shown sustained signs of robust comeback.

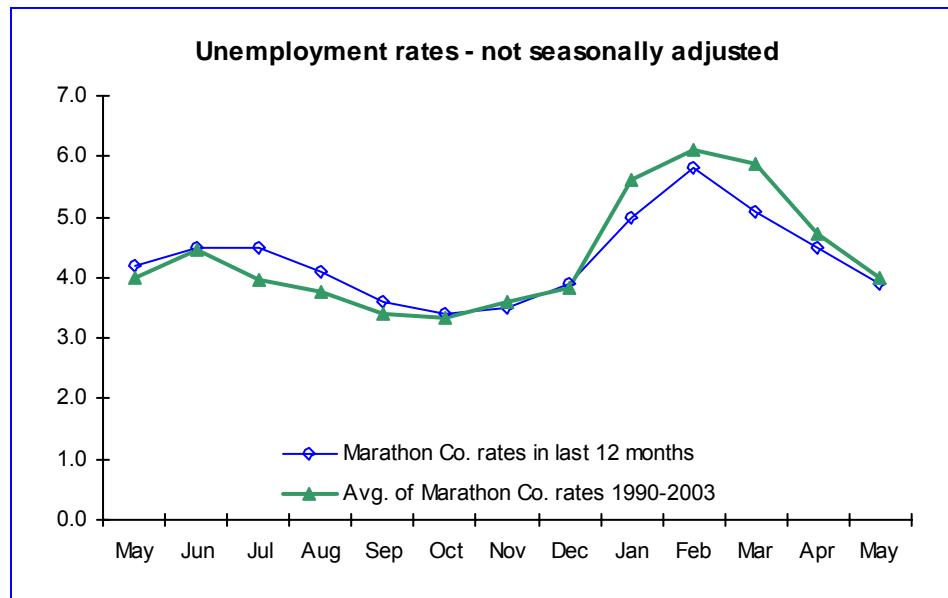
**Marathon County's** unemployment rate remains below its typical levels, but less so that it was from January through April. Comparing the 2004 post-holiday season to the 2003 post-holiday season, retail trade shed more jobs this year than last, and has not yet begun to recover them in any great numbers. Leisure & hospitality figures were below year-ago levels over the winter and spring, while the May figures were the first above year-ago levels since October.

Roughly 0.7 percent above its typical May level, **Oneida County's** unemployment rate is closer to normal than it has been for much of the last year, but not nearly as close as it was last month. Leisure & hospitality employment estimates have rebounded nicely from a somewhat anemic autumn and winter. The construction sector started bouncing back sooner, but has enjoyed less momentum.

Since February, the gap between typical and current unemployment rates has been volatile in **Portage County**. This volatility makes it harder to find meaning in the fact

that the county's unemployment rate appears to be trending further above typical levels. Leisure & hospitality and construction trends resemble those in Oneida County.

The unemployment rate in **Vilas County** was not as close to typical in May as it had been in April, but was about as close as it had been for



most of the months from last August to this March. After some softness last summer through last winter, the construction sector has enjoyed renewed strength in its employment estimates since February. Employment estimates for leisure & hospitality are not as far below year-ago levels as they had been in the fall and winter, but the sector has much ground to recover.

Except February, no month in the last year saw a **Wood County** unemployment rate further above its typical level than May. Construction employment estimates appeared to pick up steam February through April, for a stronger spring than last year, until May, when the pattern shifted closer to last year's pattern. From May 2003 through January 2003, education & health services employment had been 4.5 percent to 5.3 percent above year-ago estimates, but this February's drop was sharper than last February's and employment has been 2.8 percent to 3.1 percent above year-ago levels since February. Leisure & hospitality is on track for a strong summer.

## Employment by industry estimates - not seasonally adjusted

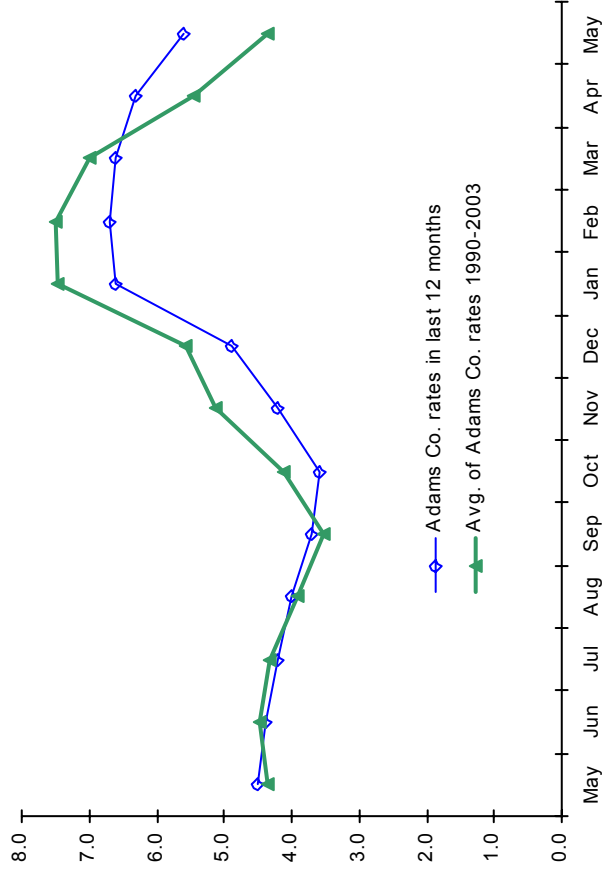
	Wisconsin		Adams		Forest		Langlade		Lincoln			
	May 2004	1-month change	May 2004	1-month change	May 2004	1-month change	May 2004	1-month change	May 2004	1-month change		
Total jobs, all indstries*	2,832,400	35,200	36,400	4,100	190	50	3,400	170	-60	11,900	270	0
Const., min'g & nat. resources	132,700	7,800	900	240	20	20	140	50	0	380	40	0
Manufacturing	508,700	4,700	4,100	430	0	-10	320	10	-30	3,500	50	-60
Trade (w holesale & retail)	439,900	5,200	11,000	550	20	-20	310	10	0	1,770	50	-10
Transport, Wrhsing, Utilities	105,300	600	-1,900	130	0	-10	150	10	-10	360	10	-20
Financial activities	159,400	900	2,400	100	0	0	100	10	0	800	10	20
Education & health services	375,000	500	10,900	480	0	10	370	-20	0	950	0	0
Leisure & hospitality	255,500	13,300	3,400	590	130	50	220	40	-10	1,080	70	60
Info, prof, bus. & other srvcs	436,200	3,000	10,300	390	10	30	200	10	-20	1,040	20	20
Government	419,700	-800	-4,700	1,240	10	-30	1,620	60	-20	2,100	20	-20
Civilian Labor Force**	3,097,800	16,200	37,500	8,800	300	330	5,000	80	-100	14,700	80	-80
Employed	2,950,600	26,900	54,400	8,300	340	220	4,800	220	-20	13,900	230	80
Unemployed	147,200	-10,700	-16,900	490	-40	110	280	-130	-80	830	-150	-160
Unemployment rate (%)	4.8	-0.3	-0.6	5.6	-0.7	1.1	5.6	-2.7	-1.4	5.6	-1.1	-1.1
	Marathon		Oneida		Portage		Vilas		Wood			
	May 2004	1-month change	May 2004	1-month change	May 2004	1-month change	May 2004	1-month change	May 2004	1-month change		
Total jobs, all indstries*	70,400	1,100	400	18,300	820	160	33,800	560	380	8,300	730	0
Const., min'g & nat. resources	2,800	100	0	1,320	180	60	1,180	150	90	940	150	70
Manufacturing	18,200	700	300	1,350	0	-120	4,600	30	-410	420	20	-20
Trade (w holesale & retail)	13,500	-300	-600	4,000	180	130	5,200	-50	190	1,400	100	40
Transport, Wrhsing, Utilities	2,800	0	0	460	40	-20	1,980	70	20	120	0	0
Financial activities	4,900	100	0	540	10	10	3,900	10	-50	400	20	40
Education & health services	7,300	0	300	3,100	-20	-40	3,300	10	140	790	0	40
Leisure & hospitality	5,200	300	200	2,500	340	220	3,600	210	260	1,470	360	-160
Info, prof, bus. & other srvcs	7,500	0	200	2,400	80	-10	4,000	60	140	610	50	-40
Government	8,200	200	0	2,700	10	-70	6,100	80	-10	2,200	40	20
Civilian Labor Force**	77,700	260	810	21,800	730	110	40,000	100	860	11,700	150	-50
Employed	74,600	760	1,010	20,700	1,090	160	38,000	460	910	11,100	590	90
Unemployed	3,000	-500	-200	1,090	-370	-50	1,920	-360	-50	610	-440	-130
Unemployment rate (%)	3.9	-0.6	-0.3	5.0	-1.9	-0.3	4.8	-0.9	-0.2	5.2	-3.8	-1.1

Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary. Numbers ≥ 2,000 are rounded to nearest 100; numbers <2,000 rounded to nearest 10. Sub-units may not add to totals due to rounding. Calculations based on unrounded numbers; results rounded.

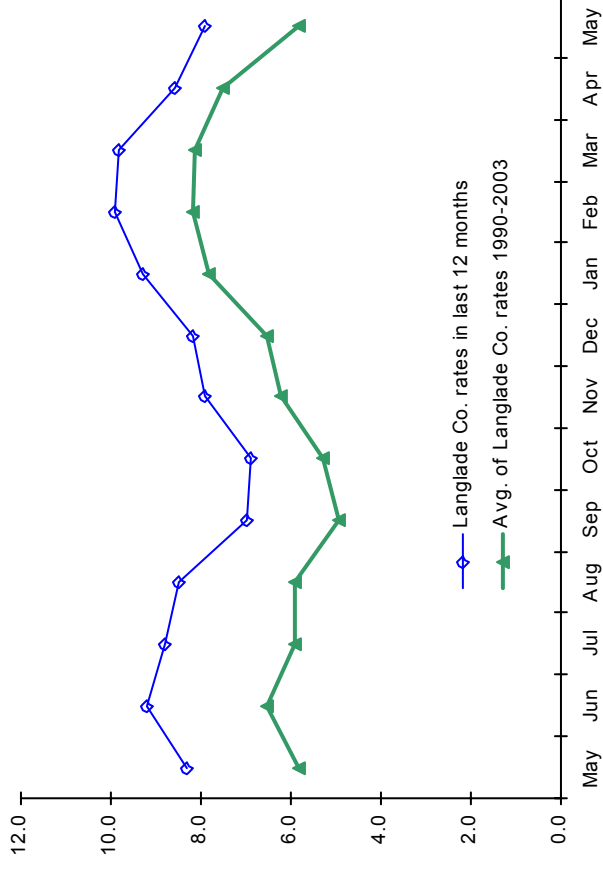
\*Includes jobs with employers in area. \*\* Includes labor force participants residing in area.

For more information call (608) 242-4885, email dan.barroilnet@dwd.state.wi.us, or see <http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/fmi>.

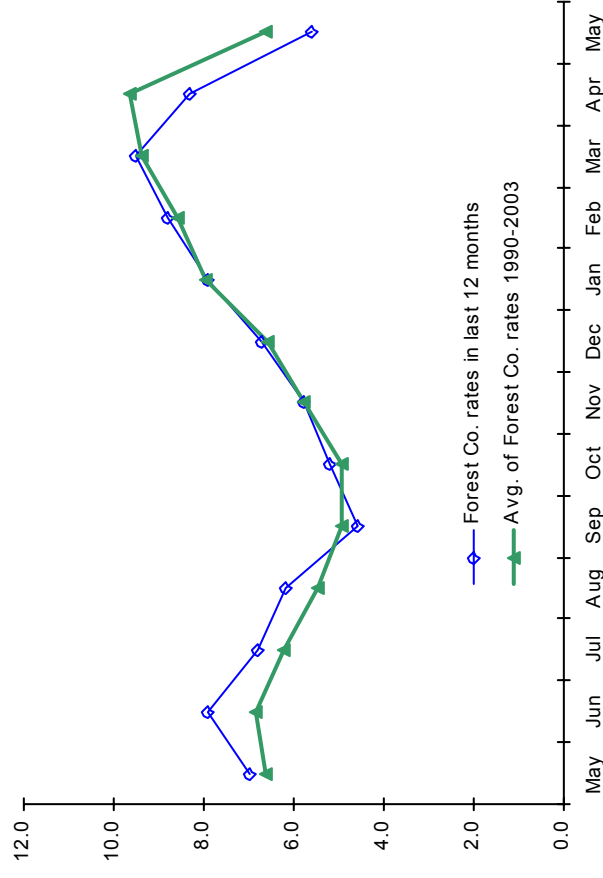
Unemployment rates - not seasonally adjusted



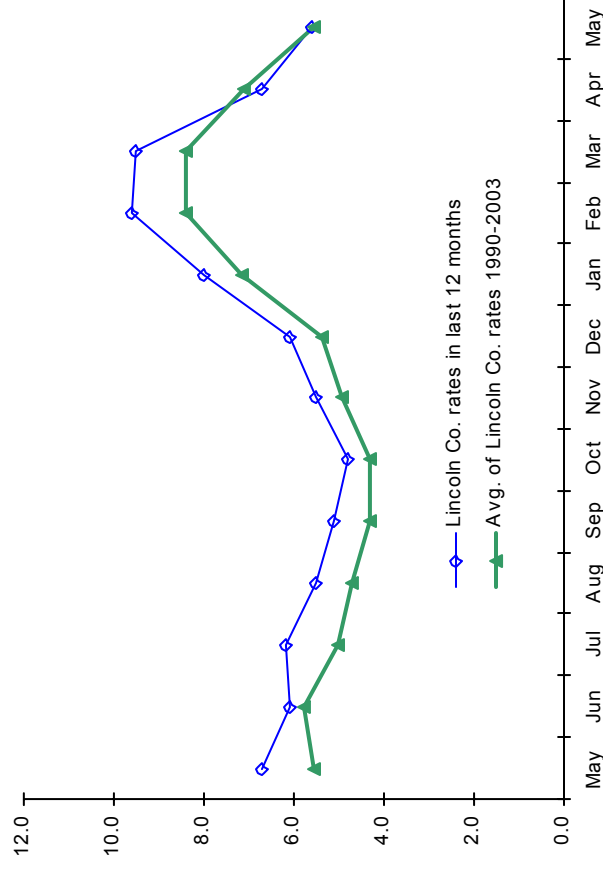
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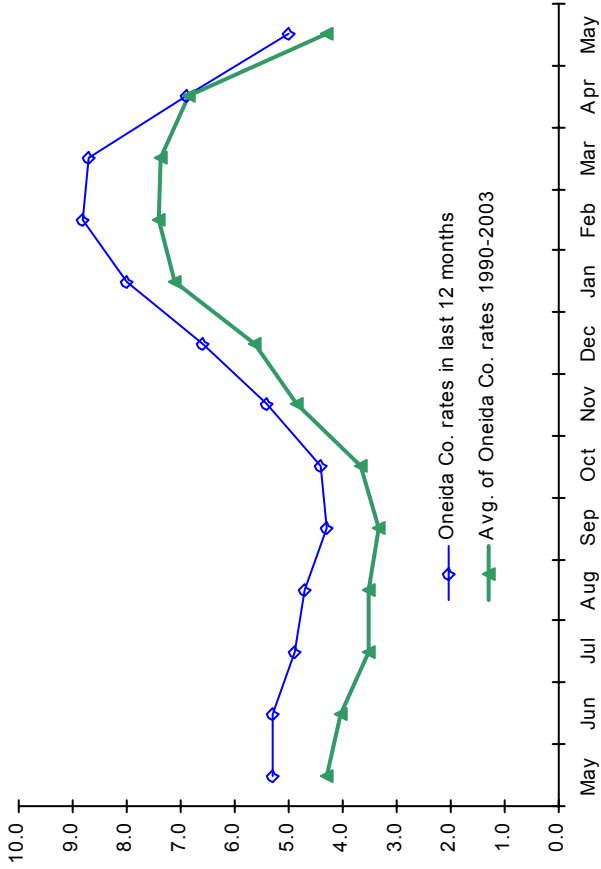
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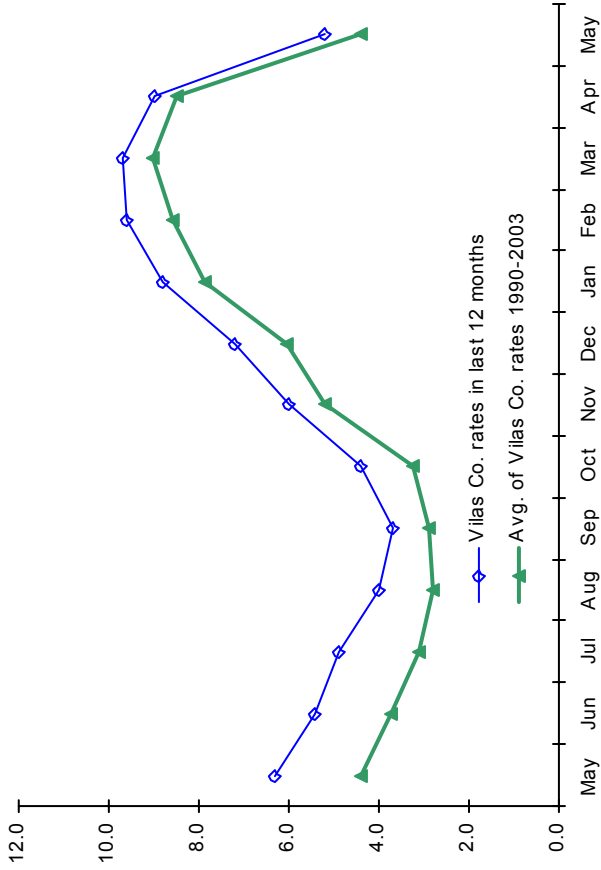
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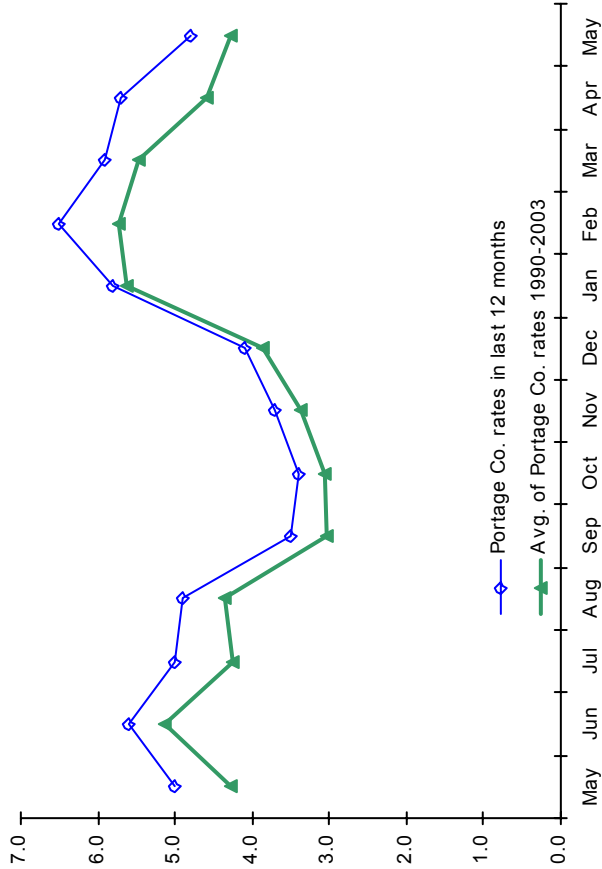
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